

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 007438

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: TERRORISM TRIALS UPDATE

REF: A. 04 AMMAN 10304 B. AMMAN 4487 C. 04 AMMAN 9243

1. (U) SUMMARY: Jordan's State Security Court (SSC) began new proceedings against a group of 17 charged with planning to attack Americans in Amman and Jordanian intelligence officers. Meanwhile, the defense attorney for one of nine defendants on trial for plotting the April 2004 attempted chemical attack in Amman asked the court to summon several GOJ officials as witnesses. The defense attorney for a group of eight militants reportedly linked to PIJ and indicted in June for planning attacks against foreigners in Jordan petitioned the SSC to acquit his clients for lack of evidence. Twelve militants were sentenced for plotting attacks against the US and Israeli embassies in 2004. The verdict against Ahmad al-Riyati, already convicted for plotting attacks against Jordanian security forces and US and Israeli interests in Jordan, was upheld. END SUMMARY.

SNIPER PLOT: 17 SUSPECTS CHARGED WITH PLANNING ASSASSINATIONS

2. (U) In early September 2005, the SSC charged 17 suspects with plotting to carry out terrorist acts in Jordan. The charge sheet indicates that the group was plotting to assassinate a number of Americans working in Jordan and Jordanian intelligence officers with a silencer-equipped sniper rifle. Media reports claim that interrogation of the suspects revealed that six are linked to Zarqawi's al-Qaida network in Iraq, while the others have ties to a Saudi group known as the Brigades of the Holy Shrines.

3. (U) The suspects, who were arrested in different locations of West Amman, include: Mu,tasim Muhammad Jamal Mustafa Sulayman; Ziyad Ibrahim Ali al-Nasur; Ali Talib Abu-Ras; Muhammad Ahmad Sa,id al-Bawwab; Ma,mun Kamal Ibrahim Khadir; Lu,ay Samir Mahmud Abu-Na,imah; Abd-al-Karim Taha Yusuf Samarah; Ahmad Mahmud Hirzallah; Mahmud Muhammad Alayyan Khadir; Bashar Ziyad Muhammad Aziz Abu-Rassa; Muhammad Rafiq Muhammad Hassan; Muhammad Umar Muhammad Adib al-Zu,bi; Ammar Yusuf Nimr Zaquzuq; Mufid Zaki Muhammad Sha,ban; Abdallah Wahid Ali Yamak; and Ibrahim Anwar Ibrahim Nayif.

DEFENSE IN CHEMICAL ATTACK CASE WANTS GOJ OFFICIALS AS WITNESSES

4. (U) On September 7 the defense attorney for Azmi Jaiousi, one of nine defendants on trial for plotting the attempted April 2004 chemical attack in Amman, asked the court to summon a former General Intelligence Department director, a serving intelligence officer, and an SSC prosecutor general as witnesses. The SSC said it would respond to the defense request when the trial resumes, but did not set a date.

DEFENSE FOR PIJ AFFILIATES ASKS FOR ACQUITTAL

5. (U) The lawyer for a group of seven suspects standing trial for plotting subversive acts against tourists urged the SSC on 24 August to acquit his clients for lack of evidence, claiming that the prosecution did not present any proof other than the suspects' confessions. The men, who authorities claim are affiliated with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), claim that their confessions had been extracted under torture. The court adjourned the trial and deferred the case documents for further review and examination. A new hearing date was not set.

AL-TAHAWI GROUP: COURT SENTENCES 12 FOR PLOT AGAINST AMERICAN AND ISRAELI EMBASSIES

6. (U) On September 11 the SSC sentenced twelve Islamist militants to prison terms ranging from one and a half to three year prison terms, falling short of the maximum penalties -- death or 15 years of hard labor--, for plotting terrorist strikes against the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Jordan. The SSC also accused the group of plotting to attack the residence of the Israeli Ambassador in Amman, and Jewish businessmen visiting northern Jordan. During their

sentencing, the twelve defendants, who did not enter pleas, hailed the September 11 al-Qaida attacks on the US. The group's leader, Abed Shihadeh al Tahawi, was sentenced to three years for leading and planning the conspiracy, raising funds, recruiting militants, and sending men for training in Yemen and Iraq. Al-Tahawi allegedly recruited his accomplices while preaching in mosques in Irbid, 50 miles north of Amman.

AL-RIYATI,S GUILTY VERDICT UPHELD

17. (U) On Sunday 11 September the SSC upheld its June 2004 guilty verdict against Jordanian Ahmad Mahmoud al-Riyati, nine months after an appeals court asked for a retrial citing "technical faults". Al-Riyati, arrested by US troops in Iraqi Kurdistan in March 2003 and subsequently extradited to Jordan, was originally convicted for plotting attacks against Jordanian security forces and US and Israeli interests in Jordan. Al-Riyati is serving a seven and one half year sentence.
HALE